

DRAFT

Marin Conservation League  
Parks and Open Space Committee Meeting  
January 14, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Gordon Bennett, Joyce Britt, Nona Dennis, Robert Eichstaedt, Delos Putz, Roger Roberts, Sue Spofford, Jean Starkweather, Susan Stompe Ann Thomas, Doug Wilson, Periann Wood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vegetation Management Plan Public Meetings by the Marin County Open Space District as follows: January 20, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Margaret Todd Senior Center, 1560 Hill Road, Novato; January 26, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Woodacre Improvement Club, 1 Garden Way, Woodacre; February 3d, 6:30-8:30PM at the Park School, 360 E. Blithedale Ave., Mill Valley. More information on the plan and meeting materials is available on the Marin County Open Space District Website. Nona Dennis reminded the Committee that there will be a San Geronimo Valley Salmon Enhancement Plan Public Meeting to be held at the Lagunitas School at 7PM on Thursday, Jan 21.

APPROVAL OF THE POSC MEETING MINUTES FOR November 12, 2009: The draft POSC Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2009 were accepted and approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS: The Committee reviewed the updated Parks and Open Space chapter of Community Marin including suggestions provided by Gordon Bennett and others. The POSC proposed edits to the chapter which will be taken back to the Community Marin Steering Committee by Susan Stompe.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 1) Report on the California State Parks Vehicle License Access Fee Ballot Initiative and Petition Signature Drive: Roger and Nona informed the committee that this Initiative Campaign has now been launched and that the initial Organizing and Training Session for Petition signature gathering was held Tuesday evening, Jan 12, at the MCL Offices with approximately 35 persons in attendance. Ann Thomas is the North Bay County Area Coordinator for this campaign. She can be contacted by phone at 924-9559. A second Organizing and Training Session is tentatively planned for later in the month.
- 2) Discussion of the Marin County Trail Management Planning Process: Ron Miska from the Marin County Open Space District provided a complete update of what is happening with this process. He informed us that the Trails Management Plan will be delayed by virtue of the need to respond to the Board of Supervisor's desire to address conflict resolution concerns on trails. There will be a joint meeting of the Parks and Open Space Commission and the Board of Supervisors to direct Staff on Policy Options to inform the Trails Management Plan on Monday, February 1 between 1-5 PM at a location to be determined (probably the Board of Supervisors regular meeting room).

This is intended to develop principles to guide the process. He noted that the position of the Board of Supervisors is unclear and conflicted at this stage. Staff is planning to first do an inventory of the existing system of roads and trails on Open Space District (OSD) lands which will include an assessment of their condition and impacts on the natural resources and community. The second phase of their work will be to prepare an actual Draft Trails Management Plan for adoption. This will include opportunities for public input and staff expects the environmental community to watch the process closely to ensure that appropriate CEQA review is included. He noted that there is a desire to separate users where repeated conflict occurs. This may require the addition of separate trails for different classes of users particularly where connectors between trail and fire road systems are needed. Staff has looked at a number of potential sites in the County where a separate Mountain Bike Park with technically challenging single track trails might be located and has selected a site at Stafford Lake as a preferred location for this purpose. With respect to the reporting of "incidents" that occur on the OSD road and trail system their website this spring will include the ability to report these to the OSD. Ron indicated that staff is concerned about financial and staff constraints in accomplishing both the Trail Management Plan and also dealing simultaneously with remedies for Trail Conflict resolution purposes.

As an example, the discussion then turned to what is happening with respect to the planned "680 Trail" project that will restore the connection between the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow and Loma Alta Open Space Preserves. This will be a new Multi-Use Trail. It will entail the preparation of an Initial Study and Negative Declaration under CEQA. The OSD plans to commence construction in the fall of 2010 with the new trail to be opened for public use in 2011. Two public meetings followed by a hike on the proposed Trail Routes are scheduled. The first public meeting will be January 27, 2010 between 9-10AM in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Marin Civic Center. The second public meeting will be on January 30, 2010 between 9-10 AM at the Connection Center, Marin Health and Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael. To join the hike afterwards participants will meet at 11:30 AM at the top of the Luiz Ranch Fire Rd. on the Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Preserve. One must walk from the paved road to this location and the hike will take several hours covering steep and unimproved slopes where the trail is planned to be constructed.

- 3) Roger reported that as far as he knows there has been no change in the status of the proposed San Rafael (Smith Ranch) Airport Sports Complex Project. However, it appears that the project sponsor is discussing with the city the possibility of funding the added cost for completion of the EIR. If so, then we may expect the EIR to be issued later this spring or early summer.
- 4) Joyce Britt and Roger reported that Mr Cotter's property at 549 Cascade Drive in Mill Valley is still on the market and that John Leonard continues to monitor the situation. MCL may be asked to assist in the acquisition of one of the 3 lots for approximately \$150,000 to provide for public access to Open Space lands on the ridgelines above.

The POSC Meeting adjourned at 5:20PM.

